

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Energy

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

445

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

12/11/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

12/11/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

AGEN

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

AGEN

13. Effective Date

11/22/1983

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

2

16b. Report Date

Report Title

11/01/2017 Grand Challenges for Biological and Environmental Research: Progress and Future Vision

11/02/2017 REPORT TO BERAC BY THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS SCIENCE DIVISION

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 2

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2 Meetings and Dates

Purpose

To discuss results of the BERAC Committee of Visitors review the Biological Systems Science Division. Also to review, discussion, and vote on the Grand Challenges II Report.
Spring BERAC Meeting. Response from BSSD on the COV. Discuss the charge to focus on facilities after the Grand Challenges Report.

Start

End

11/02/2017 - 11/03/2017

04/25/2018 - 04/26/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

Current FY

Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$87,500.00	\$88,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$125,700.00	\$155,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$100.00	\$100.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$112,456.00	\$135,000.00
18d. Total	\$325,756.00	\$378,100.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The committee addresses topical issues such as bioenergy, genomics, structural biology, biogeochemistry, and Earth system observation and modeling. The committee forms subcommittees, with DOE approval, of BERAC members and other scientists to address charges from the Director of the Office of Science and to review and make recommendations on current and future program plans and progress. Subcommittee draft reports are presented to the committee for discussion, modification, and approval. These reports review ongoing research programs from a broad programmatic point of view and examine opportunities for extending and improving programs.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The composition of the membership is very broad and diverse, and reflects the multi-disciplinary program scope and interests of the Office of Biological and Environmental Research. The research areas covered include genomics, cellular and molecular biology, data management and analytics, environmental and Earth system sciences, and structural biology. Members come from public and private universities, Federal agencies, and private industry. Particular attention is paid to obtaining diverse membership with a balance of disciplines, interests, experiences, points of view and geography.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The full committee meets at least two times a year. The meetings are very relevant and important to the Office of Biological and Environmental Research. The meetings serve as opportunities for information exchange between the full committee and the Office. Reports of subcommittees are discussed, modified, and approved or returned to the subcommittees for additional work. Changes and plans for the Office are presented and discussed. New and ongoing charges from the Director of the Office of Science are

presented and discussed.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

No other committee exists within or outside of the DOE that has the breadth of knowledge and/or expertise needed to review the programs and plans of the Office of Biological and Environmental Research to address the Department's energy, environmental and science missions. Because the committee is dedicated to the Office, it has insights into the programs and their management that provide a sound and broad base from which to make its recommendations. In addition, the regular turnover of the membership brings fresh points of view to the committee.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

None

Designated Federal Officer

Tristram West Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Biological and Environmental Research

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Assmann, Sarah	12/15/2014	12/16/2020	Pennsylvania State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Biteen, Julie	12/17/2017	12/16/2020	University of Michigan	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brunner, Amy	12/06/2016	12/16/2019	Virginia Tech	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ehleringer, James	03/21/2006	12/16/2018	University of Utah	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hack, James	12/11/2013	12/16/2019	Oak Ridge National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hungate, Bruce	12/23/2015	12/16/2018	Northern Arizona University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Joachimiak, Andrzej	04/22/2008	12/16/2018	Argonne National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jones Prather, Kristala	12/06/2016	12/16/2019	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kleese van Dam, Kerstin	12/17/2017	12/16/2020	Brookhaven National Lab	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kuske, Cheryl	12/23/2015	12/16/2018	Los Alamos National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leung, Ruby	12/11/2009	12/16/2019	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meehl, Gerald	12/15/2014	12/16/2020	National Center for Atmospheric Research	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melillo, Jerry	12/23/2015	12/16/2018	Marine Biological Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Muday, Gloria	12/23/2015	12/16/2018	Wake Forest University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Randall, David	03/21/2006	12/16/2018	Colorado State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Randerson, James	11/20/2012	12/16/2018	University of California, Irvine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reed, Patrick	12/17/2017	12/16/2020	Cornell University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Robertson, Philip	12/11/2009	12/16/2018	Michigan State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schlauch, Karen	12/23/2015	12/16/2018	University of Nevada, Reno	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Segre, Daniel	12/23/2015	12/16/2020	Boston University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shupe, Matthew	12/17/2017	12/16/2020	University of Colorado	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stacey, Gary	04/22/2008	12/16/2018	University of Missouri	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stahl, David	11/20/2012	12/16/2018	University of Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Weyant, John	12/11/2013	12/16/2020	Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zhao, Huimin	11/17/2011	12/16/2019	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 25

Narrative Description

DOE's mission is to advance the energy, environmental, and nuclear security of the United States; promoting scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; sponsoring basic research in the physical sciences; and ensuring the environmental cleanup of the nation's nuclear weapons complex. The Department also has three strategic goals toward achieving its mission: 1) Science and Energy; 2) Nuclear Security; 3) Management and Performance. With respect to the Science and Energy strategic goal, DOE leads the nation in the transformational research, development, demonstration, and deployment of an extensive range of energy and efficiency technologies. The DOE world-leading research in physical, chemical, biological, environmental, and computational sciences contributes fundamental scientific discoveries and technological solutions that support the nation's primacy in science and innovation. The committee ensures that BER supports a balanced and state-of-the-art research portfolio of research projects that contribute to all aspects of the DOE mission and impacting all strategic goals.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

353

Number of Recommendations Comments

Since January 2006, 28 reports have been issued covering all aspects of user facilities, research, planning, and program management for the Office of Biological and Environmental Research. These reports contain more than 353 separate and distinct recommendations with individual reports having as few as three and as many as fifty recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

85%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

All separate and distinct recommendations have been evaluated and considered and an estimated 85% or more have been implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

15%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

An attempt is always made to at least partially implement those recommendations that are not or cannot be fully implemented.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Reports on progress and implementation made at subsequent Committee meetings and/or in writing are posted on the Committee website.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A